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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department.)

OCCUPATION NEEDED FOR A LONG CASE

DEAR EDITOR: Will some one suggest a course of study for a graduate nurse who is on a long chronic mental case? something that will help her to keep in touch with other nurses and also help her to keep up to the standard of nursing, so that when she leaves this case she will be prepared for other more interesting and also harder cases.

H. C.

Maryland.

A COMPARISON OF SALARIES

DEAR EDITOR: I should like very much to have the opinion of hospital superintendents who employ graduate nurses as to why they receive such low salaries in comparison with the private duty nurse. Seemingly they must assume far greater responsibility than the sister nurse who has only one patient to care for. Is their work not underestimated?

A PRIVATE DUTY NURSE.

Iowa.

UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION

DEAR EDITOR: I am writing for information upon a topic on which I wish to give advice, but I wish your advice first.

A town in the west has a hospital, and connected with it a training school for nurses, conducted by a superintendent who is neither a nurse nor physician. He has shown in many respects his unfairness in dealing with his nurses, in a number of cases attempting to deprive them of their diplomas for some minor offense, just as they were finishing. He now has three students whom he is threatening. One of them has finished all her work and her studies, but for a simple offense he has withheld her diploma unless she will work another month for him, in which case he will give her the diploma and his recommendation. This he terms discipline, which he thinks he has a perfect right to inflict. Knowing the situation, and the institution, I know it is a desire to retain the services of the nurse for an obstetrical case which is coming in, which influences him.

Is there any legal way in which a nurse can get her diploma under such circumstances? And has an institution a right to do things in this way?

Massachusetts.

M.

NURSING THE INDIANS

DEAR EDITOR: I was much interested in the issue of the JOURNAL which dealt with the different fields of labor for nurses. I am going to tell of another field where nurses are needed, this is the United States Indian Service.

For the past seven months I have worked among the Navajo Indians of Arizona, and they have been among the most interesting as well as useful months